

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 28, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write to express our strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MDOT) application for funding for its Maine Western Gateways Project through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program. The project will fulfill local transportation and economic needs by rehabilitating sections of state highways and support infrastructure improvements in three rural communities in Maine.

Maine faces unique challenges as a rural state, particularly in terms of maintaining reliable infrastructure. For this proposal, MDOT has identified three communities that act as rural "gateways" to Western Maine's sites and resources for tourists visiting the state, commercial vehicles moving goods, and residents living and working in the area. MDOT believes the three chosen communities – the Towns of Kingfield, Woodstock, and Fryeburg – hold potentially valuable economic opportunities that can be realized through investments in key road infrastructure.

If selected for funding, MDOT would repair and resurface designated roadways that run directly through each town, improve underground utilities, and enhance pedestrian flow and safety. Two of the roads are a part of the National Highway System, which further highlights the critical need for safe and efficient infrastructure in this region. MDOT also plans to address concerns related to American with Disabilities Act standards by assessing and making appropriate infrastructure upgrades in each community.

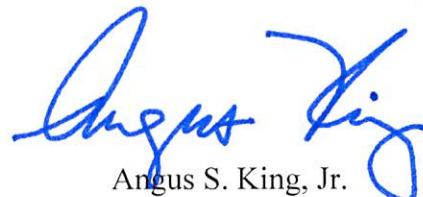
We strongly believe that MDOT's Maine Western Gateways Project will help provide safe access to outdoor recreation and better routes for the lumber industry in Western Maine. Rehabilitating the targeted highways and roads is an essential step toward ensuring the region's long-term financial viability. BUILD funding would allow MDOT to begin modernizing area transportation infrastructure, further expanding economic opportunity in Western Maine and enhancing the quality of life for area residents.

Thank you for your attention to this proposal. We respectfully request that the Department give careful consideration to the Maine Department of Transportation's application, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that your staff notify Cam O'Brien on Senator Collins' staff at (202) 224-2523 and Adam Lachman on Senator King's staff at (202) 224-5344 when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

July 19, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter as a strong endorsement of the Maine Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant application to rehabilitate state highways and support infrastructure through three rural gateway towns in southwest Maine.

As you know, the state of Maine has unique infrastructure challenges due to its geography, weather and population density. Maine is one of the most rural states in the country. This makes reliable infrastructure critical for people trying to get to and from work, go to school, shop and access health care centers. The proposed inaugural BUILD project would repair the roads and sidewalks and enhance access on three state highways in rural Franklin County and neighboring Oxford County. These highways traverse the towns of Fryeburg, Woodstock and Kingfield. Each rural town is a gateway connecting the Lakes and Mountains Region of the state with the adjacent states and Canada. Trucks, tourists and residents move through the towns to make deliveries, enjoy the natural beauty that Maine has to offer and to simply conduct the routines of daily life. The highways connecting these towns to the region have been improved over the years but the segments *within* the towns have not been upgraded to modern standards. A BUILD grant would fund a project to complete these routes, allowing residents and travelers to enjoy all the modern transportation features others take for granted. If these highways are not rehabilitated, this section of the Northeast will see a further decline in financial opportunities and will be at a disadvantage compared to the rest of the region.

I am pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from the U. S. Department of Transportation in order to make these repairs. I strongly believe that this corner of the country cannot be competitive on a regional, national or global scale if its highway corridors are not upgraded to ensure resiliency and reliability. The declining condition of the highways through these gateways reduces the quality of life for the residents and works to further expand the rural opportunity gap experienced in this area of Maine.

Therefore, I respectfully request that you please consider funding this project fully in this first round of BUILD funding.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage  
Governor



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3 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0003

July 10, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We collectively submit this letter in support of the Maine Department of Transportation's efforts to secure funding through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant. The project that MaineDOT has planned would have a significant impact on each of our districts, and Western Maine as a whole.

As you may be aware, much of the State of Maine is rural, making reliable infrastructure critical for people to navigate everyday tasks such as getting to and from work, school, shops and health care centers. This project, suitably named the Maine Western Gateways Project, will make repairs to roadways, sidewalks and access on three state highways in rural communities in Franklin and Oxford counties.

These are repairs that desperately need to be completed. The current condition of these roads is poor. There are numerous potholes and extensive rutting from the large amount of traffic each road sees on a daily basis. These are pivotal routes through our districts in western Maine that allow residents, tourists, and businesses to connect to main arteries such as Interstate 95. With a collective annual average daily traffic (AADT) count of 22,000 vehicles, the routes are seeing increases in traffic volume. The most recent AADT of 22,000 is expected to grow to 26,000 by 2038.

We are extremely pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from the U. S. Department of Transportation to make these repairs and to bring the roads up to modern standards. We urge you to look favorably upon the department's application.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of James M. Harper in blue ink.

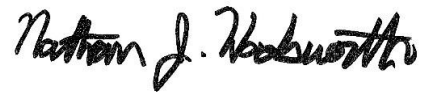
James Harper  
State Senator

Handwritten signature of Lisa M. Keim in blue ink.

Lisa Keim  
State Senator



Thomas Saviello  
State Senator



Nathan J. Wadsworth  
State Representative



Thomas Skolfield  
State Representative

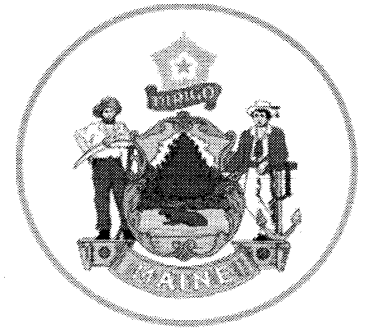


# Town of Kingfield

38 School Street

Kingfield, ME 04947

(207) 265-4637 (207) 265-4626 Fax



July 16, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

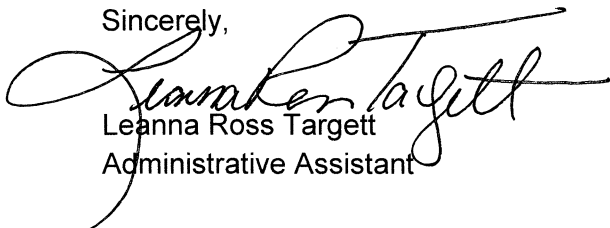
Please accept this letter as strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant application to rehabilitate state highways and supporting infrastructure through three rural gateway towns in southwest Maine.

As you are aware, the State of Maine has unique infrastructure challenges due to its geography, weather and population density. Much of Maine is rural, making Maine one of the most rural states in the country. The rural nature of the state makes reliable infrastructure critical for people to get to and from work, go to school, shop and access health care centers. This inaugural BUILD project will repair the roads, sidewalks and access for three (3) state highways in rural Franklin County and neighboring Oxford County. These highways traverse through the towns of Fryeburg, Woodstock and Kingfield, Maine. Each rural town is a gateway connecting the Lakes and Mountains Region of the state with the adjacent states and Canada ensuring proper access for residents and commerce throughout the region. Trucks, tourists and residents progress through the towns to make deliveries, enjoy the natural beauty that Maine has to offer and to simply conduct the routine of daily lives. The highways connecting these towns to the region have been improved over the years but the segments *through* the towns have lacked improvements to modern standards. Through a BUILD grant this project will complete these routes allowing residents and travelers through the town to have all the modern transportation features others take for granted. If these highways are not rehabilitated, this region of the Northeast will see a further decline in financial opportunities and a disadvantage to the rest of the region.

I am pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from the US Department of Transportation to make these repairs. I strongly believe that this region of the country cannot be competitive on a regional, national or global scale if the highway corridors are not upgraded to ensure resiliency and reliability. The declining condition of the highways through these gateways reduces the quality of life for the residents and works to further expand the rural opportunity gap experienced in this area of Maine.

Therefore, I respectfully request that you please consider funding this project fully in this first round of BUILD funding. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Leanna Ross Targett  
Administrative Assistant

July 10, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter as strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant application to rehabilitate state highways and supporting infrastructure through three rural gateway towns in Western Maine.

**61% of Maine's population lives in rural areas. The state of Maine needs its rural sectors to grow economically. Well maintained infrastructure is our lifeline to the rest of the world and prosperity.**

As you are aware, the State of Maine has unique infrastructure challenges due to its geography, weather and population density. This area is struggling to change the current trend of only .03% annual population growth. The rural nature of the state of Maine makes reliable infrastructure critical for people to get to and from work, go to school, shop and access health care centers. **Additionally, recreational tourism contributes approximately 20% annually to this region's economy.** The growth of this sector will be critical to the growth of this region. This inaugural BUILD project will repair the roads, sidewalks and access for three (3) state highways in rural Franklin County and neighboring Oxford County. These highways traverse through the towns of Fryeburg, Woodstock and Kingfield, Maine. Each rural town is a gateway connecting the Lakes and Mountains Region of the state with the adjacent states and Canada ensuring proper access for residents and commerce throughout the region. **If these highways are not rehabilitated, this region of the Northeast will see a further decline in financial opportunities and be disadvantaged societally. A BUILD grant would allow improvements to these highways and support the economy of the region.**

I am pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from the US Department of Transportation to make these repairs. I strongly believe that this region of the country cannot be competitive on a regional, national or global scale if the highway corridors are not upgraded to ensure resiliency and reliability. The declining condition of the highways through these gateways reduces the quality of life for the residents and works to further expand the rural opportunity gap experienced in this area of Maine.

Therefore, I respectfully request that you please consider funding this project fully in this first round of BUILD funding.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Charlie Woodworth  
Executive Director